

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS CONFERENCE 2011









DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB





ASSOCIATE UNITS





BACKGROUND

- Two public schools, K-5 on DM until 2006 (Tucson Unified School District (TUSD))
 - TUSD down-sizing and financial issues
 - Consolidated to one K-5 school
 - Defaulted on vacant school deed
 - 58-year old school returned to Base





BACKGROUND

- Assigned TUSD middle school (6-8) in local community
 - Labeled "failing" three straight years
 - Over-crowded
 - Underfunded
 - Bus ride to other school over 1 hour



- Survey of base parents and Town Hall meeting
 - "Overwhelming response" need on-base middle school
- DM Charter School Working Group formed
 - Work options/advantages to local middle school
 - Incorporated experts from:
 - Plans and Legal Offices
 - Engineers, Contractors, Force Support and Security Forces



- Team Strategy
 - Reuse 58-year old school
 - Wing Plans Office submitted beddown to HQ Air Force -- Approved 17 Nov 08
 - Transparent communication with families/leadership
 - Town Hall meetings
 - Wing and Group meetings
 - Open e-mail discussion
 - Researched charter schools in Arizona
 - Contacted 327 charters schools



- Team Selection Procedure
 - Establish Source Selection Team (SST)
 - Developed Request for Proposal (RFP)/Statement of Objectives
 - Operating Agreement (OA) developed
 - Basis for Award competitive Best Value
 - Technical Properties (educational standards)
 - Financial (Pass/Fail)
 - Lease for facility (Pass/Fail)
 - Advertised plan through Arizona Charter School Association



- Charter School Selection
 - Streamlined technical evaluation cut 50%
 - Results to Fighter Wing Commander (selection authority)
 - Final selection coordinated with:
 - 1) Air Combat Command
 - 2) Air Force Real Property Agency
 - 3) Secretary of the Air Force
 - 4) Congress
 - Selection of Sonoran Science
 Academy (SSA) approved, July 2009
 - School opened August 2009 with 120 students



IMPACT AND RESULTS

- Selected Sonoran Science Academy (SSA)
 - Embraced "Excellence"
 - "Love for Learning Independent Thinking"
 - Arizona Charter School of the Year, 2009
 - No. 1 of 502 in Charter School Organization
 - Eliminated substandard middle school education program
 - Ranked 50th in pupil spending in all Arizona Public Schools
 - Quality education tuition free!





IMPACT AND RESULTS

- Facility and Lease
 - Army Corps of Engineers Lease Agreement
 - Determined "No Fee-Based" lease
 - Quality education minimal cost to charter school (SSA)
 - More money spent on students
 - Savings to the Air Force over \$940,000
 - Demolition cost of 58-year-old facility \$910,000
 - Grounds maintenance cost \$31,000



IMPACT AND RESULTS

- SSA Program
 - 19 classes and 11 extra-curricular classes to students 1st year
 - Technology in Teaching internet in every class
 - Programs for special needs students
 - Student/teacher ratio = 10:1
 - Focus on learning and college preparation
 - Teacher tracking to every student level



IMPACT AND RESULTS

 SSA provides an environment of emphasis on high academic achievements

- Opportunity for Airmen's children to attend a top technical math and science school
- Student aptitude test results show exceptional increase in one year (6-8 grades)
 - Reading up 46%
 - Writing up 53%
 - Math up 60%
- Phenomenal return on investment!



SUSTAINMENT AND STANDARDIZATION



- Unprecedented success!
 - Military families, parents and students excited about opportunities
 - DM process sought by 6 Air Force installations

- SSA plans for 2010/2011 school year
 - Adding high school 1 grade per year to 12th grade
 - Renovation plans for computer lab
 - Expanded full-sized gym in 3 years

DAVIS-MONTHAN CHARTER SCHOOL WORKING GROUP

 SURROUNDED BY QUALITY HOUSING THROUGH SUCCESSFUL PRIVATIZATION USING RENEWABLE ENERGY



DAVIS-MONTHAN CHARTER SCHOOL WORKING GROUP



